

CLAIMS

1.19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A method comprising:

receiving selection of (1) a first program from a first program source, (2) a second program from a second program source, (3) a first program processing function for the first program, and (4) a second program processing function for the second program;

synchronizing, prior to initiating the first program processing function, (1) a current running time of day used for scheduling the first program processing function, and (2) a current running time of day of a clock of the first program source;

initiating the first program processing function based on the scheduling clock;

synchronizing, prior to initiating the second program processing function, (1) a current running time of day used for scheduling the second program processing function, and (2) a current running time of day of a clock of the second program source; and

initiating the second program processing function based on the scheduling clock.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein:

the current running time of day used for scheduling the first program processing function is stored as a scheduling clock, and

the current running time of day used for scheduling the second program processing function is also stored as the scheduling clock.

22. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein:

the current running time of day used for scheduling the first program processing

function is stored as a first scheduling clock, and

the current running time of day used for scheduling the second program

processing function is stored as a second scheduling clock.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 further comprising simultaneously maintaining, for at least a period of time, both (1) the first scheduling clock, and (2) the second scheduling clock.

24. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the first programming processing function comprises at least one from a group consisting of display, record, and playback.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the group further comprises: program transmission, program standards conversion, program encryption, program decryption, program scrambling, and program decoding.

26. (New) The method of claim 20 further comprising terminating the second program processing function based on the current running time of day used for scheduling the second program processing function.

27. (New) The method of claim 20 further comprising receiving current time reference information that comprises System Time Table (STT) data of an MPEG compliant data stream.

28. (New) The method of claim 20 further comprising receiving (1) first current time reference information from the first program source, and (2) a second current time reference information from the second program source,

wherein synchronizing the current running time of day used for scheduling the first program processing function is based on the first current time reference information, and synchronizing the current running time of day used for scheduling the second program processing function is based on the second current time reference information.

29. (New) A receiving system comprising a processor, the processor programmed:

to provide a guide operable by a user (1) to select a first program from a first program source, (2) to select a second program from a second program source, (3) to select a first program processing function for the first program, and (4) to select a second program processing function for the second program,

to synchronize, prior to initiating the first program processing function, (1) a current running time of day used for scheduling the first program processing function, and (2) a current running time of day of a clock of the first program source;

to initiate the first program processing function based on the scheduling clock,

to synchronize, prior to initiating the second program processing function, (1) a current running time of day used for scheduling the second program processing function, and (2) a current running time of day of a clock of the second program source; and

to initiate the second program processing function based on the scheduling clock.

30. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein:

the current running time of day used for scheduling the first program processing function is stored as a scheduling clock, and
the current running time of day used for scheduling the second program processing function is also stored as the scheduling clock.

31. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein:

the current running time of day used for scheduling the first program processing function is stored as a first scheduling clock, and
the current running time of day used for scheduling the second program processing function is stored as a second scheduling clock.

32. (New) The system of claim 31 wherein the processor is programmed to simultaneously maintain, for at least a period of time, both (1) the first scheduling clock, and (2) the second scheduling clock.

33. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the processor is programmed to terminate the second program processing function based on the current running time of day used for scheduling the second program processing function.

34. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the system is operable to receive current time reference information that comprises System Time Table (STT) data of an MPEG compliant data stream.

35. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein:

the processor is further programmed to receive (1) first current time reference information from the first program source, and (2) a second current time reference information from the second program source,
synchronizing the current running time of day used for scheduling the first program processing function is based on the first current time reference information, and synchronizing the current running time of day used for scheduling the second program processing function is based on the second current time reference information.

36. (New) A storage medium comprising programmed instructions for performing at least the following:

receiving selection of (1) a first program from a first program source, (2) a second program from a second program source, (3) a first program processing function for the first program, and (4) a second program processing function for the second program;

synchronizing, prior to initiating the first program processing function, (1) a current running time of day used for scheduling the first program processing function, and (2) a current running time of day of a clock of the first program source;

initiating the first program processing function based on the scheduling clock;

synchronizing, prior to initiating the second program processing function, (1) a current running time of day used for scheduling the second program processing function, and (2) a current running time of day of a clock of the second program source; and

initiating the second program processing function based on the scheduling clock.

37. (New) The storage medium of claim 36 wherein:

the current running time of day used for scheduling the first program processing function is stored as a first scheduling clock,

the current running time of day used for scheduling the second program processing function is stored as a second scheduling clock, and

the programmed instructions are further for performing simultaneously maintaining, for at least a period of time, both (1) the first scheduling clock, and (2) the second scheduling clock.

38. (New) The storage medium of claim 36 wherein:

the programmed instructions are further for performing receiving (1) first current time reference information from the first program source, and (2) a second current time reference information from the second program source,

synchronizing the current running time of day used for scheduling the first program processing function is based on the first current time reference information, and

synchronizing the current running time of day used for scheduling the second program processing function is based on the second current time reference information.